(c) the details of assets of these officials observed/recorded and irregularities/graft found to be received as on today; and

(d) the number of cases registered and official charged on above charges in various airports of Kerala for last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) On the basis of a complaint dated 1.11.2005, a surprise check was conducted by CBI at the Karipur airport, Calicut on 02.11.2005 and a case in RC-26(A)/2005-Ker has been registered on 03.11.2005 against an Inspector and a Havildar of Central Excise, Karipur Airport, Calicut for demand and acceptance of bribe. No other case has been registered during the last three years on charges of corruption, in Airports of Kerala. It will not be appropriate to disclose the result of the searches at this stage since the disclosure may impede the course of investigation in the case.

Removal of gap between common man and IAS officers

†3294. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove gap between common man and IAS officers;

(b) if so, the detail thereof and by when it would be implemented;

(c) the extent to which this gap would be removed; and

(d) the benefit likely to be had by common man as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):(a) to (d) A number of steps have been taken to bring the Government closer to the citizen and empowering them to participate in governance meaningfully. These include-efficient and transparent delivery to services, implementation and monitoring of delivery of services, easy accessibility to information and services and an accountability mechanism to fix responsibility for results. Initiatives like Citizens' Charter, Information and Facilitation Counters are intended to help in improving transparency and accountability in delivery of services, Public Grievance Redressal mechanism provides a feedback about systemic problems and facilitates prompt redressal of grievances. Right to information Act and emphasis on outcomes in place of outlay ensure transparency and accountability by providing relevant information and ensuring

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

intended results. E-governance efforts lead to efficient and hassle-free delivery of services to the common man.

Further, Recruitment to the I.A.S. is made through Civil Services Examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. Keeping in view the interests of common man, a candidate is allowed to take the written as well as interview test of said examination in any of the Indian languages included in the VIII Schedule to the Constitution of India. No minimum qualifying marks has been prescribed for the interview test.

Acquital of accused

†3295. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corrupt officers raided by CBI in September and October, 2005;

(b) the number of persons out of these at whose place unaccounted for property had been unearthed and the action taken against them;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 95 per cent of the accused go scot free;

(d) if so, whether it is not necessary to evolve such system in these cases which can ensure rational ending to these cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) On 30.9.2005, CBI had conducted a Special Drive during which 59 cases against 132 persons including 76 public servants were registered and searches carried out at 216 places across the country. Out of above, 39 cases were registered against 39 public servants for possession of disportionate assets.

(c) to (f) All the cases registered during the Special Drive conducted on 30.9.2005 are still at different stages of investigation and hence the question of accused going scot free does not arise. the conviction rate of CBI cases during the last three years *i.e.* 2002, 2003 and 2004 has been 68.7%, 68.36% and 66.33% respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.